

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of Claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A pin for use in a connector of a plasma arc apparatus, the pin comprising:

a cylindrical surface disposed at a distal end of the pin, the cylindrical surface and distal end of the pin being recessed within the connector;

an o-ring groove disposed around the cylindrical surface, the o-ring groove defining a substantially constant width; and

an o-ring removal slot adjoining the o-ring groove,
wherein the o-ring removal slot provides access for removal of an o-ring disposed within the o-ring groove.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Original) The pin of Claim 1, wherein the o-ring removal slot is approximately perpendicular to the o-ring groove.

5. (Original) The pin of Claim 1, wherein the o-ring removal slot extends between the distal end of the pin and the o-ring groove.

6. (Previously Presented) The pin of Claim 1, wherein the o-ring removal slot further comprises chamfered edges.

7. (Original) The pin of Claim 1 further comprising a plurality of o-ring removal slots.

8. (Original) The pin of Claim 1, wherein the pin is a negative lead gas carrying pin.

9. (Original) The pin of Claim 1, wherein the pin comprises a brass material.

10. (Currently Amended) A negative lead gas carrying pin for use in a connector of a plasma arc apparatus, the negative lead gas carrying pin comprising:

a cylindrical surface disposed at a distal end of the negative lead gas carrying pin, the cylindrical surface and distal end of the negative lead gas carrying pin being recessed within the connector;

an o-ring groove disposed around the cylindrical surface, the o-ring groove defining a substantially constant width; and

an o-ring removal slot adjoining the o-ring groove,

wherein the o-ring removal slot provides access for removal of an o-ring disposed within the o-ring groove.

11. Cancelled.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Original) The negative lead gas carrying pin of Claim 10, wherein the o-ring removal slot is approximately perpendicular to the o-ring groove.

14. (Original) The negative lead gas carrying pin of Claim 10, wherein the o-ring removal slot extends between the distal end of the negative lead gas carrying pin and the o-ring groove.

15. (Original) The negative lead gas carrying pin of Claim 10, wherein the o-ring removal slot further comprises chamfered edges.

16. (Original) The negative lead gas carrying pin of Claim 10 further comprising a plurality of o-ring removal slots.

17. (Original) The negative lead gas carrying pin of Claim 10, wherein the negative lead gas carrying pin comprises a brass material.

18. (Currently Amended) A sealing member comprising:

a distal end defining a cylindrical surface, the cylindrical surface and distal end of the sealing member being recessed within a housing;

an o-ring groove disposed around the cylindrical surface, the o-ring groove defining a substantially constant width; and

an o-ring removal slot adjoining the o-ring groove,

wherein the o-ring removal slot provides access for removal of an o-ring disposed within the o-ring groove.

19. Cancelled.

20. (Previously Presented) The sealing member of Claim 18, wherein the o-ring removal slot extends between the distal end of the sealing member and the o-ring groove.

21. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 18, wherein the o-ring removal slot further comprises chamfered edges.

22. Cancelled.

23. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 18, wherein the o-ring groove is disposed around an outer surface of the sealing member.

24. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 18, wherein the o-ring groove is disposed around an inner surface of the sealing member.

25. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 18, wherein the o-ring removal slot is approximately perpendicular to the o-ring groove.

26. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 18 further comprising a plurality of o-ring removal slots.

27. (Currently Amended) A sealing member comprising:

a distal end defining a cylindrical surface, the cylindrical surface and distal end of the sealing member being recessed within a housing;

an o-ring shoulder disposed around the cylindrical surface; and

an o-ring removal slot adjoining the o-ring shoulder,

wherein the o-ring removal slot provides access for removal of an o-ring disposed against the o-ring shoulder.

28. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 27, wherein the o-ring removal slot is approximately perpendicular to the o-ring shoulder.

29. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 27, wherein the o-ring removal slot further comprises chamfered edges.

30. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 27, wherein the sealing member is a main power socket for use in a plasma arc cutting apparatus.

31. (Original) The sealing member of Claim 27 further comprising a plurality of o-ring removal slots.

32-35. Cancelled.

36. Cancelled.

37. (Currently Amended) A connector comprising:

a plug housing; and

a pin disposed within the plug housing, the pin comprising:

a distal end defining a cylindrical surface;

an o-ring groove disposed around the cylindrical surface; and

an o-ring removal slot adjoining the o-ring groove,

wherein the distal end of the pin is recessed within the plug housing, and the o-ring removal slot provides access for removal of an o-ring disposed within recessed the o-ring groove.